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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR 29 March 1955

SUBJECT RM - 130 Rocket Launcher and Ground Torpedo

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1. The RM-130 rocket launcher was mounted on a 6x6 GMC-type truck. The four-man gun crew was seated behind the driver's cab. The rocket launcher was provided with 32 tubes (raketnice) arranged in rows of 8 and fitted with steel bands. On either side of the tubes, there were equalizing springs which made the elevation of the weapon more easy. The rocket launcher was mounted on a rotating circular steel plate which was moved by a traversing mechanism. The weapon was elevated by an elevating mechanism. A locking mechanism was located behind the seat of the gun crew. A sight mount was screwed on consoles to the right and left in the rear. An electric firing mechanism was installed beside the sight mount. Thirty-three rockets were stored on either side below the loading space. The rocket launcher can be moved short distances even when loaded.

2. The tubes consisted of 5-mm sheet steel, were 140 cm long and had a caliber of 130 mm. A hoop was fitted on either end of the tube which had four straight guide grooves. The rocket was held by two hooks with springs, fitted to the rear of the tube. The firing mechanism consisted of a lever of fireproof metal on one end of which was brought into contact with the base of the rocket after loading. Thus, the current impulse reached the firing mechanism of the rocket. Each rocket tube had its own lever.

3. The encased firing device (odpalovaci skrinka), a sheet metal box which was about 30x20 cm in size, had a tin cover which could be tilted before firing. The case was fitted to the rear of the rocket launcher. A turning knob at the left side of the firing case controlled the succession of fire. A scale for salvo and individual fire was located to the right of the control knob.

4. The weapon was equipped with a range drum similar to those used on other artillery pieces. The range drum had a cross level, a clinometer, and a range scale which had apparently a mil graduation with three-digit numbers. The maximum firing range was 10 km. An individual salvo covered an area of 50x200 meters.

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5. The rockets had the shape of a normal artillery projectile. Prior to loading, an arming pin of plastic material was pulled from the head of the projectile, probably to activate the rocket. A disk of sheet metal of 3 cm in diameter, with which a lever was brought into contact, was located in the center of the rocket. About 20 openings, each of about 6 mm in diameter, were located in the base of the projectile. The rocket was 80 cm long, had a caliber of 130 mm, weighed 24 kg and had a smooth body.

6. The gun crew consisted of the following six men:
1 chief of section (platoon leader or corporal)
1 first ammunition bearer (podavac 1.) (private)
1 second ammunition bearer (podavac 2.) (private)
1 gun loader (nabijec) (private)
1 gunner (miric) (private first class)
1 driver (ridic) (private).

7. In March 1953, a special weapon exercise was held by a rocket-launcher battalion in the caserne at the eastern perimeter of Uherske Hradisto. The installation also housed a reconnaissance unit. The rocket-launcher battalion practiced at the Narochusi training grounds where the reconnaissance unit was trained with an unidentified weapon. The training officer said that the new weapon was a ground torpedo (pozemni torpedo).

8. This ground torpedo was said to be a projectile, about 1.50 meters long and 30 cm in diameter, which was mounted on a sleigh of tubings of about 30 mm in diameter. Steel bands which were about 30 mm wide and 10 mm thick tied the projectile to the sleigh. At the base of the projectile, there were about four groups of openings, each of 10 mm in diameter, which were arranged around an igniter in the center. The weapon apparently was operated by two men, one lying on either side of the sleigh. The soldier at the left side carried around the neck a dark-brown case, measuring 15x10x8 cm, of plastic or sheet metal. The box was connected with the rear end of the sled runner by a 10-meter insulated wire. A firing lever similar to that used with the rocket launcher was fixed to the left sled runner. Sleigh mount and projectile were spray-painted with khaki paint. The weapon was employed in front line and, predominantly, launched against wide wire entanglements and also against bunkers and field fortifications.

9. A firing demonstration was conducted as follows: The sleigh with the projectile was aimed at a small earth mound [redacted] distance of 1,000 meters and the two members of the crew lay down on either side of the weapon 10 meters away. Upon a fire order, the charge in the rear end of the projectile started burning, flames darted from the openings and the sleigh moved straight forward at a speed of about 60 km/h, gliding downhill and uphill across all kinds of ground. It also crossed a one-meter trench. The discharge of flames and greyish smoke stopped after the sleigh had moved for 500 meters when the sleigh with the projectile came to a standstill. There was no explosion since the weapon was only a practice torpedo without bursting charge.

10. [redacted]

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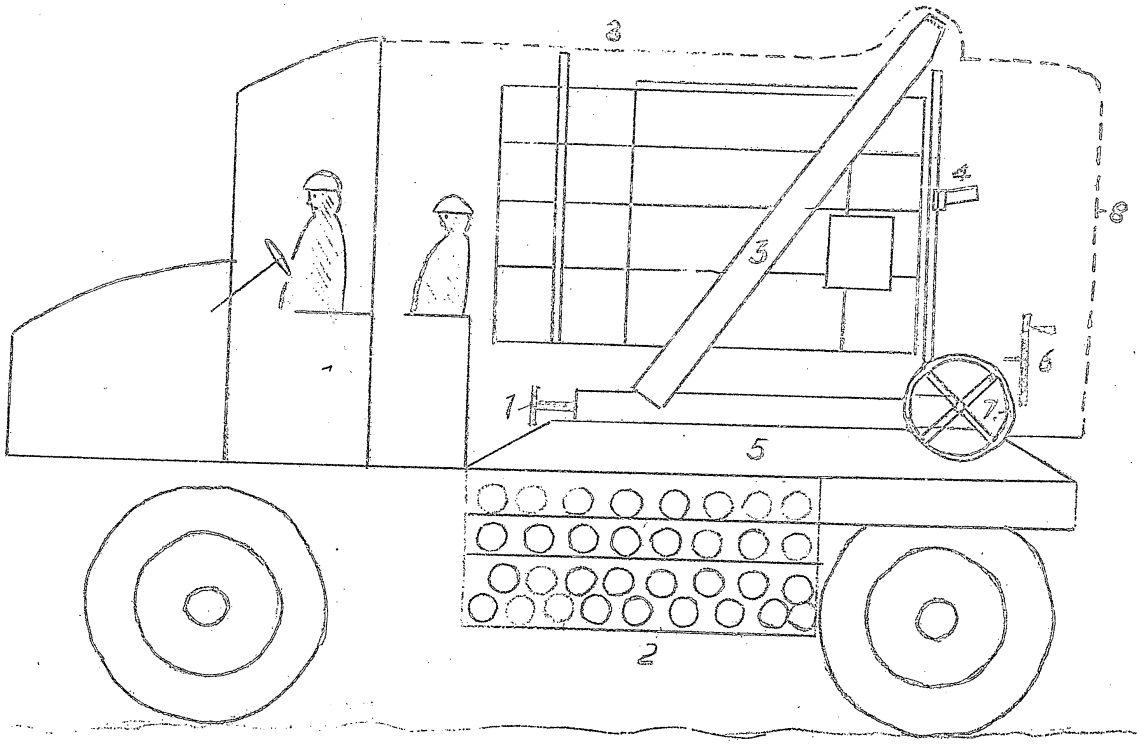
Annex /



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 Annex 1

RM-130 Rocket Launcher

Legend.

1 Locking mechanism

2 Ammunition crate for 33 rockets

3 Equilibraters

4 Sight mount

5 Rotating mount

6 Traversing mechanism

7 Elevating mechanism

8 Tarpaulin

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Annex 2

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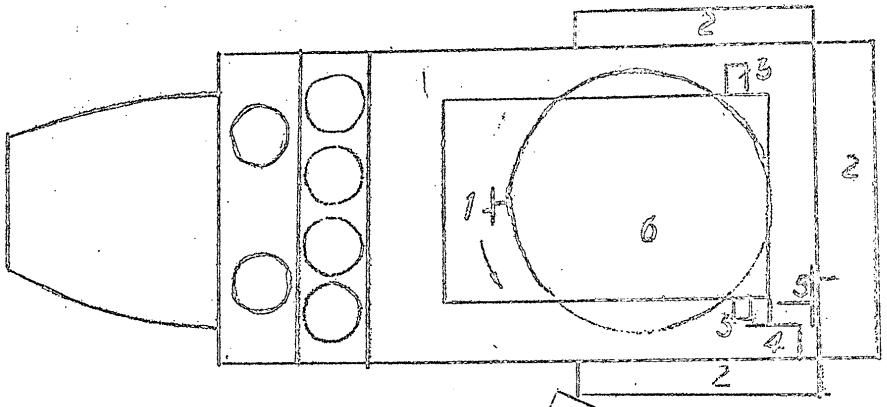

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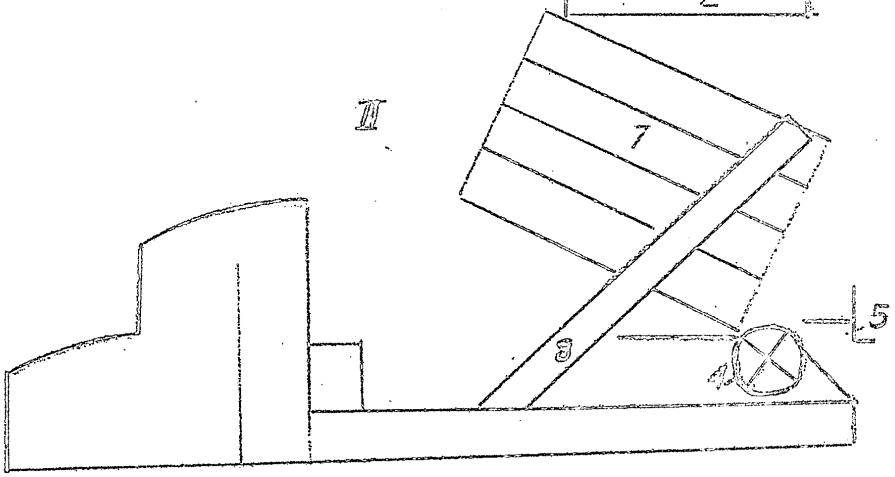

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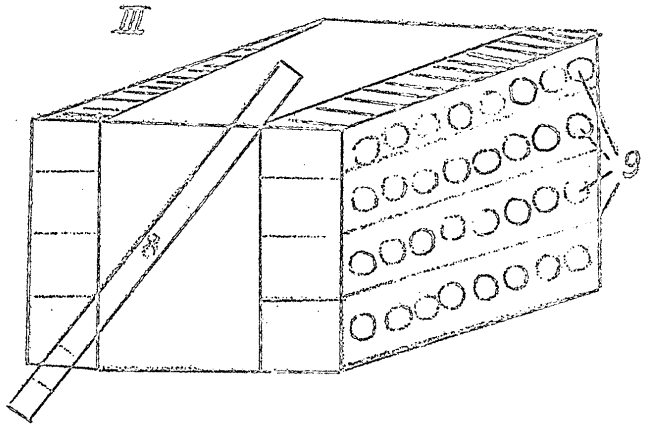

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Annex 2

Detail Sketches to the RM-130 Rocket Launcher

Legend.

Sketches I through III

1 Base plate

2 Footboards

3 Consoles for sight mount

4 Elevating mechanism

5 Traversing mechanism

6 Rotating mount

7 Rocket tubes which are kept together by a 60-cm-wide metal band

8 Equilibrator

9 Tubes

(See Annex 3)

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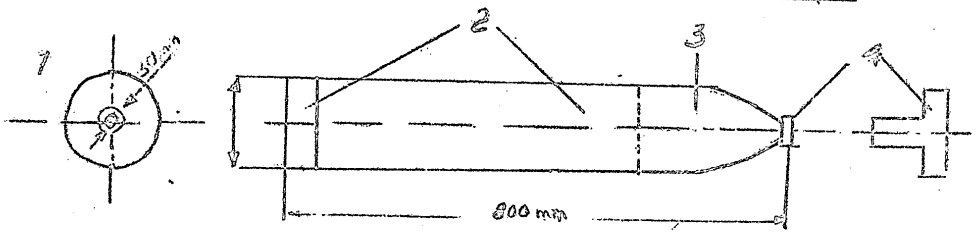
Annex 3



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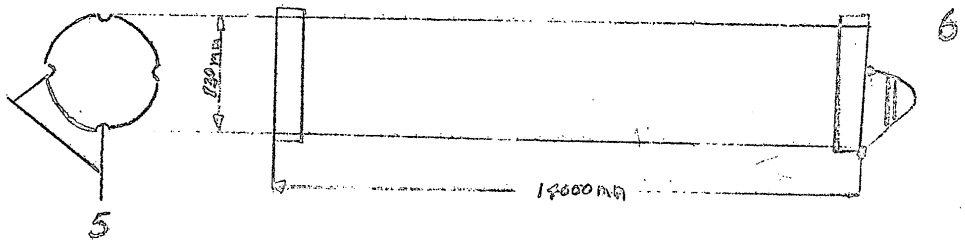

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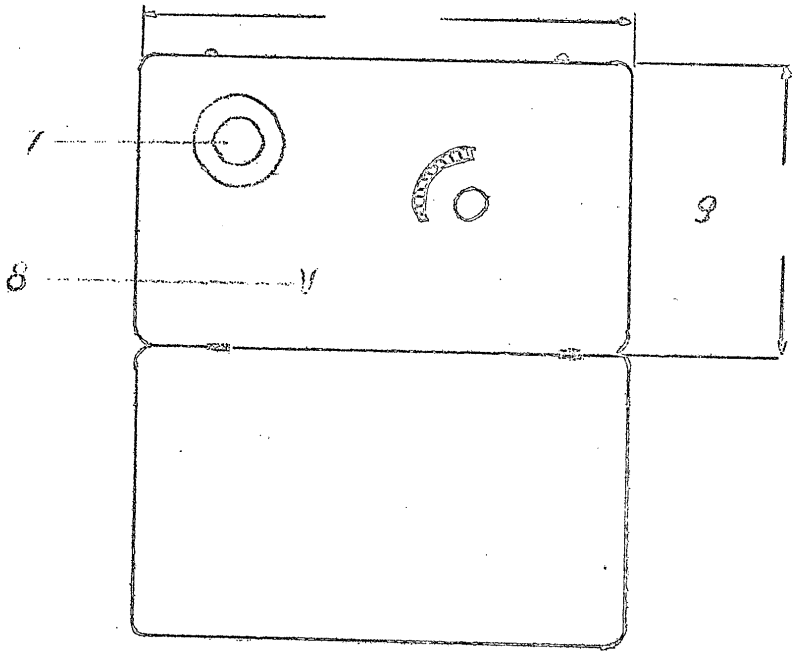

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 Annex 3

RM-130 Rocket Launcher

Legend.

Sketch I: Rocket

1 Base of rocket with at least 20x8-mm venturies

2 Propellant

3 Charge

4 Cap of igniter

Sketch II: Rocket tube

5 Cross-section of tube with four straight guide grooves

6 Firing lever for electrical igniter

Sketch III: Cased firing mechanism

7 Control knob for fire succession

8 Hooks for lanyard

9 Scale for salvo and individual fire